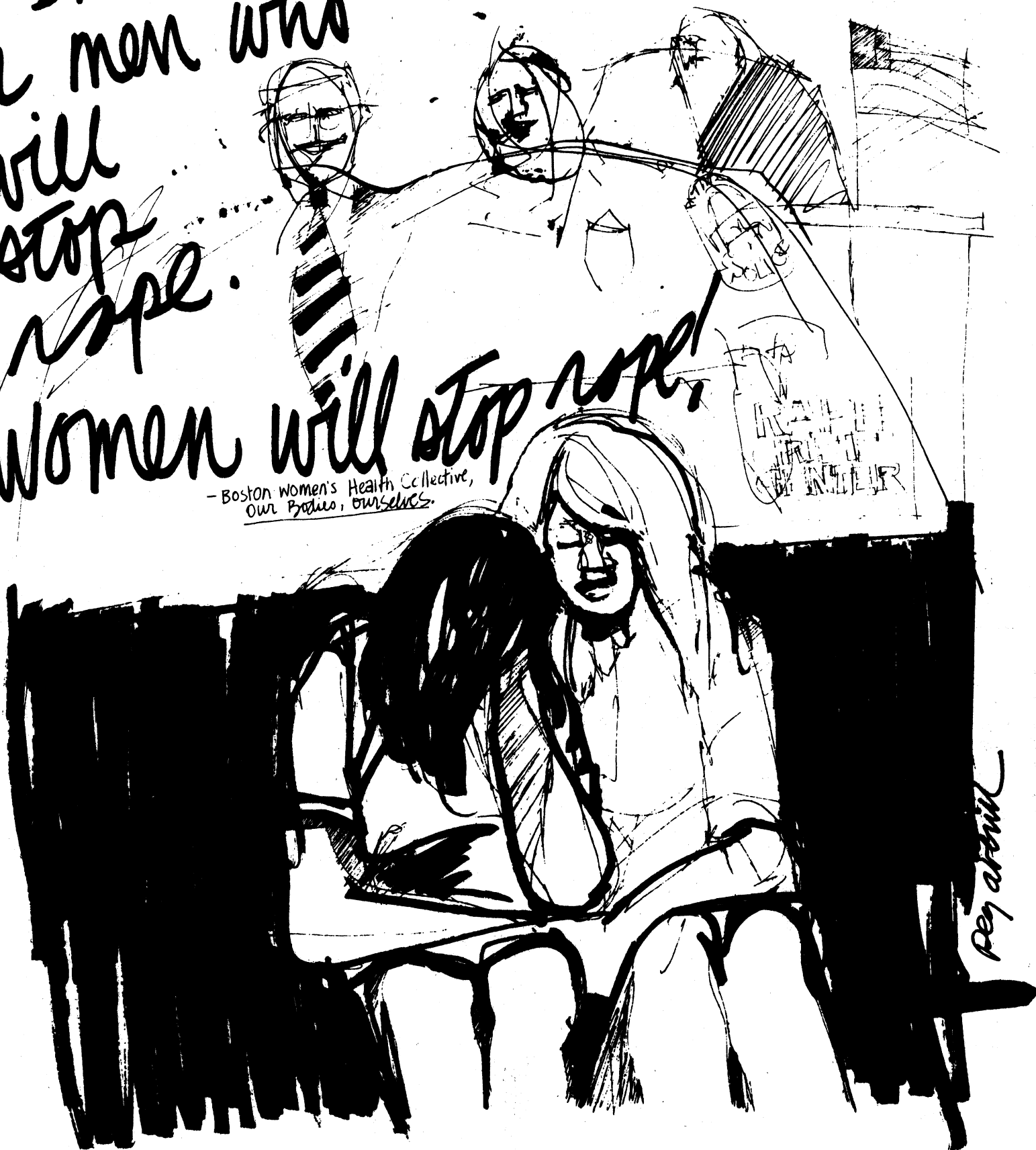


It is not the police, the courts
or men who
will
stop
rape.
Women will stop rape!

- Boston Women's Health Collective,
Our Bodies, Ourselves.



LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

#668

January 8, 1975

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HELP LNS!

Please friends, we have a lot of bills to pay this month (especially taxes) plus we're still way behind in salaries. And THERE'S NO MONEY IN THE BANK. You've probably already gotten your January LNS bill. Send us money for this month right now, and try to pay up some of your back bill too. We can't make it without you.

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continued from page 10--Milwaukee VA Demonstration--

Twice during the demonstration fights broke out between Government Service Attendant Guards--backed up by local police--and the demonstrators, eleven of whom were arrested.

Sponsored by the Milwaukee chapter of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO), the Milwaukee demonstration is one of many occurring around the country to protest the inhuman treatment of vets by the Veterans Administration.

The GI bill, which finally became law despite President Ford's recent veto, is described by the VVAW/WSO as "totally out of line with the Bills passed after World War II." The 22.7% increase in veterans payments outlined in the present Bill, they say, would have to be increased by 300% to match post World War II payments.

Furthermore, even as this GI bill was being passed, another bill was in committee that would, for the first time, put a tax on the payments given to disabled veterans of all wars.

The VVAW/WSO points out that not even the recently passed bill increasing pension payments for veterans is adequate given the crisis in the economy. Although payments would be increased by 12%, that is also the annual rate of inflation, which means that next year vet pensions will be falling behind again.

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NEW FINDINGS RAISE DOUBTS IN ROBERT KENNEDY DEATH;
SIRHAN SIRHAN MAY NOT HAVE FIRED FATAL SHOT

LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK (LNS)--Of all the major political assassinations in the 1960's, the killing of Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968 has seemed least shrouded in mystery. At least one hundred people were in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel when the fatal shots were fired. Many eyewitnesses saw Sirhan Sirhan fire his gun at Kennedy, and many saw Kennedy fall. At the time, it did not seem possible to dispute the fact that Sirhan killed Kennedy.

But discrepancies in the physical evidence in the case have been gradually brought to light and have gained greater publicity, notably in the last two months. These discrepancies are considered significant, even by some law enforcement officials, and increasingly calls are being heard for a re-opening of the investigation.

The major area of evidence that raises the most serious questions in the case is the problem of identifying the bullets and linking them to Sirhan's gun.

An Iver Johnson .22 caliber hand gun was taken from Sirhan on the night of the shooting and handed over to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Three days after the shooting, an LAPD investigating officer, DeWayne Wolfer, testified before an L.A. grand jury that he had examined a "near-perfect" bullet taken from Kennedy's neck and he further testified that it had come from Sirhan's gun.

He had established this, he said, by test firing Sirhan's gun into a water tank and retrieving the undamaged bullets. He said that upon microscopic inspection, the bullets that were test fired agreed in characteristics with the bullet taken from Kennedy's neck.

On June 11 Wolfer made another test with an Iver Johnson .22 which was not Sirhan's gun but was taken from the LAPD property division.

Among the exhibits at Sirhan's trial was an envelope, labeled "Exhibit 55", which Wolfer testified contained "three of the test shots I took from" Sirhan's gun. Apparently no one at the trial bothered to examine this envelope, because in fact it was clearly marked as containing the bullets which were fired from the test gun on June 11.

A Second Ballistics Report

Journalists Alexander Cockburn and Betsy Langmarr, who analyzed this evidence in the January, 1975 issue of Harper's Magazine, concluded that "the fact remains that at the trial, as at the grand jury, nobody introduced any evidence which scientifically or even demonstrably, linked Sirhan's gun to the bullets and fragments that made up the relevant exhibits."

The observation that the envelope contained the wrong bullets was made over two years after the assassination by William Harper, an expert in the technical and forensic investigation of firearms. Harper holds a considerable reputation in his field in California. He was a consultant to the Pasadena Police Department for seven years, and over a period of 35

years has handled more than 300 cases for defense and prosecutions in state and federal courts.

In November, 1970, Harper went to the Los Angeles County Clerk's office to examine the evidence. He brought with him a Balliscan camera used to take comparison photographs of details of bullets. Harper made several visits to look at the evidence and in December, 1970, he swore out an affidavit outlining his conclusions. He mentioned the mistake in Exhibit 55, but also raised more serious doubts.

Harper contended that a bullet removed from another victim injured in the shooting named Weisel had in fact been fired by Sirhan. Since that bullet was in "near perfect" condition, Harper decided to use it as a test bullet, and compare it with the one removed from Kennedy's neck.

"My examination disclosed no individual characteristics," Harper wrote, "establishing that Exhibit 47 [the bullet from Kennedy's neck] and Exhibit 54 [the bullet from Weisel] had been fired by the same gun."

Harper said that each bullet had different rifling angles (marks made on a bullet as it travels along the barrel of a gun). "It is, therefore, my opinion, that bullets 47 and 54 could not have been fired from the same gun," Harper said. His affidavit was made public in the spring of 1971.

Journalists Cockburn and Langmarr also note, "there is no evidence connecting either bullet with Sirhan's gun, apart from Wolfer's sworn testimony to the grand jury and the stipulations of counsel at the trial."

After Harper announced his findings, both the L.A. County District Attorney and the grand jury indicated that "serious questions" had been raised. But in the fall of 1971 a board of inquiry dismissed all the questions that Harper and others had raised.

On April 26, 1974 another investigator, William Lystrup, a medical photographer at the L.A. County Coroner's office re-photographed the Kennedy and Weisel bullets. At the same time a public hearing on the assassination was held last May in Los Angeles. Among those who were present were two other widely recognized experts in forensic ballistics, Herbert MacDonnell and Lowell Bradford.

In an affidavit MacDonnell agreed with Harper on the rifling angles, and pointed out another difference in the bullets, the difference in cannelures. A cannelure is any groove that runs around a bullet or cartridge case. They are sometimes described as "knurled grooves."

MacDonnell's affidavit stated that the bullets from Kennedy's neck had one cannelure and the bullet from Weisel had two. He further explained that Sirhan's gun held eight bullets and that all eight cartridge cases, which had been retrieved after the shooting, were manufactured by the Cascade Corporation. So far as MacDonnell had been able to determine, all bullets manufactured by this firm have two cannelures.

MacDonnel felt that the evidence was such that the Weisel bullet was made by Cascade. He concluded that since the Kennedy bullet had only one cannelure, "it could not have been part of one of the cartridges taken from the Sirhan revolver."

Both MacDonnel and Lowell Bradford, a former employee of the California Department of Justice laboratory in Sacramento, agreed that the new set of photographs of the bullets taken in 1974 matched Harper's original set.

Both also agreed that the only chance to settle the controversy would be to re-fire the Sirhan gun and compare the test bullets with the Kennedy and Weisel bullets. But a motion that the county supervisors propose an official re-examination of the evidence was defeated 3-2.

How Close Was The Fatal Gun?

Another area of evidence where controversy exists is a determination of where Sirhan was when he fired. Eyewitness accounts strongly contradict the conclusions that officials have reached based upon medical evidence.

The autopsy report shows that Kennedy died from a wound which entered the back of his head and traveled from right to left and upward. It also states that the gun was fired at virtually point-blank range.

The conclusions of the L.A. Coroner of the firing distance was based on the presence of powder burns on the back of Kennedy's head. At the grand jury hearing the coroner indicated that the muzzle distance was "very, very close."

"Do you have an opinion," he was asked, "as to the maximum distance the gun could have been from the Senator?"

"Allowing a variation," the coroner replied, "I don't think it will be more than two or three inches from the right ear."

The LAPD officer who had conducted the test firing of the other Iver Johnson .22 six days after the killing testified at Sirhan's trial that the maximum distance would be six inches. He said he believed that the gun had been fired against Kennedy's head at a range of one inch.

"It is, however, impossible," writes Cockburn and Langman, "to find witnesses who directly corroborate the autopsy evidence that the gun was practically touching Kennedy's head." Their estimates vary from one to three yards. The closest anyone can place the gun muzzle to Kennedy's head is two feet.

One person who has been deeply affected by the new findings is Allard Lowenstein, liberal Democrat, ex-congressman and one of the organizers of the Dump Johnson movement in 1968. Lowenstein, until recently, had considered those who believed that conspiracies lay behind the assassinations of the 1960's to be wrong, is now pushing very hard to reopen the Robert Kennedy case.

Lowenstein has also talked to many eye-witnesses. "Every one," said Lowenstein, "said Sirhan was three to four feet away at least. Some of them said much

more. And when I would say that the autopsy said the bullet came from one inch away they told me I must be mistaken. I must have read the autopsy wrong."

Lowenstein also has called for a re-firing of Sirhan's gun. He as well as Paul Schrade, a former United Auto Workers official who was also wounded in the Kennedy shooting, have called for additional studies of the ballistics evidence. They don't believe that all the wounds and marks can be accounted for by the eight slugs that Sirhan fired.

They also want a release of the ten-volume report compiled but never released by the investigating authorities.

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(Most of this information was taken from "Sirhan's Gun" by Betsy Langman and Alexander Cockburn in the January, 1975 issue of Harper's. Thanks also to the Real Paper in Boston.)

(For developments of the Mutsu, until mid-September 1974, see back packet #643.)

JAPAN TRIES TO GIVE AWAY NUCLEAR VESSEL WHICH SPRANG RADIOACTIVE LEAKS

TOKYO, Japan (LNS)--The Japanese government is currently trying to give away its \$50 million nuclear powered ship, the Mutsu, four months after it first developed radioactive leaks, according to the Mainichi Shimbun, a Japanese newspaper.

After floundering around in the ocean for over a month, the stricken vessel attempted to dock at a Japanese harbor in October, but was prevented from doing so by a blockade of thousands of small fishing boats.

A smaller flotilla of several hundred fishing boats attempted to block the initial launching of the Mutsu in August and September, but a typhoon scattered the small boats, permitting the Mutus to take off during the storm.

Representatives of the fisherpeople say the blockade was thrown around the Mutsu to keep it from entering Japanese territorial waters and endangering the fish supply due to its radioactive leaks. They finally let the government dock the boat at an isolated northern harbor, on the provision that the ship be put in mothballs for six months for repairs and then moved to another harbor.

Officials at every other Japanese port, however, refuse to let the Mutsu dock in their vicinity. The government has been trying to sell the ship to foreign countries for some time now, and apparently no one wants to buy it.

The Mainichi Shimbun says the government is now considering plans to give the ship away, most likely to Saudi Arabia or Brazil.

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please remember to send us a copy of your paper as it comes out -- two copies would be even better.

[Note to editors: The following can serve as background for the Boston school controversy. For a more detailed account of the School Committee's history of racism and an analysis of the current situation, see the newest issue of Radical America. You can get a copy by writing to them at 5 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass. 02140 and enclosing \$1. Also, see packet #667 for another story on Boston.]

THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE: A HISTORY OF RACISM

(Editor's Note: It is the rule, not the exception, that white school boards and city hierarchies in the North, and West, as well as the South, have done their best to prevent desegregation or any move toward equality in education for Third World people. The strategies run the gambit from "plan, plan, plan--delay, delay, delay" to violent mob confrontations and the sudden, quiet rezoning of a particular area designed to foil a newly approved busing plan.

A good case in point is the Boston School Committee. The following information, taken from Radical America, details just some of this obstruction.)

BOSTON (LNS) -- The Boston School Committee has served as the elected head of white opposition to desegregation for over a decade. All white, and predominantly Irish, it has latched onto the issue of race, playing on the problems and fears of inner-city white working class people in order to maintain its own power.

The School Committee first faced criticisms of segregation in the early sixties as many people became concerned about the worsening condition of Boston's schools. In the spring of 1963, the NAACP, CORE and a local citizens group all completed studies detailing the de facto segregation in the Boston schools. The reports emphasized differences in expenditure for predominantly white schools and predominantly black schools and documented discrimination against black teachers and administrators.

Six of the nine predominantly black elementary schools, for instance, were overcrowded. The average cost per pupil in Boston's elementary schools was \$275.47 but in one largely black district the average was \$238.05, and in another it was \$228.98. As of 1963 there had never been a black principle in Boston and there had been only one black administrator. Only 40 of the 2000 teachers were black.

The NAACP presented 14 demands to the School Committee, the first one being "immediate public acknowledgement of the existence of de facto segregation." But the Committee refused. Because of this the Massachusetts Freedom Movement, a group of black and white civil rights activists, organized a one-day school boycott for June 19, 1963. Over half of the black junior and senior high school students boycotted and overall, about one-quarter of all black students stayed out.

Following the boycott there were attempts to confront the School Committee at its meetings and there was picketing at the Committee headquarters. In response, the School committee proposed that a committee "more representative of the black community" be set up to study the question.

A bi-racial committee was set up, but before long the black members quit, saying they did not want to be Uncle Toms. As a result, the School Committee was forced to call another meeting, but within minutes it was gavelled to a close by then School Committee member Louise Day Hicks because a majority of the committee refused to discuss de facto segregation.

In February, 1964 there were nation-wide one-day boycotts of the schools to protest the poor quality of education for black students. Over 20,000 supported the boycott in Boston and this, along with other pressures, led Governor Endicott Peabody to call for a "blue-ribbon" committee to study the issue. As a result of the committee's findings, the succeeding governor, John Volpe, proposed legislation to deal with de facto segregation. The Racial Imbalance Law was enacted in August, 1965.

The law gave the state the power to direct school committees to come up with plans for desegregation, to review and revise those plans and to withhold state funds if necessary to enforce its decisions.

However, the law specifically stated that desegregation plans could not involve busing students outside of their school districts if their parents objected. In other words, the law demanded desegregation, but undercut one of the possible short-term solutions.

Ever since 1965 when the Racial Imbalance Law was first being considered, the School Committee has focused on busing and done its best to ignore the law's dictums. (Subsequent Massachusetts legislatures have also attempted to repeal the law.)

In his electoral campaign in 1965, for instance, Committee member Joseph Lee--himself from an upper-class Yankee background--said that "white children do not want to be transported into schools with a large portion of backward pupils from unprospering Negro families who will slow down their education... White children do not want large numbers of Negro pupils from unprospering Negro families shipped into their mainly white schools."

And in the same year Louise Day Hicks said, "We have in our midst today a small band of racial agitators, non-native to Boston, and a few college radicals who have joined in the conspiracy to tell the people of Boston how to run their schools, their city, and their lives."

When, in the fall of 1965, the School Superintendent wanted a minor busing program to relieve overcrowding in a black school by transferring some students to a white school with room, the Committee rejected the proposal, even though busing had been used in the past to deal with overcrowding.

Furthermore, the School Committee had used busing to maintain segregation. In 1972, it was revealed that black children were being bused past white schools with room for them, and white students were being bused past black schools with room in them.

In hiding these facts, the School Committee,

along with many others, has helped to foster myths about busing. In Boston one-third of the students in public schools are already bused or are using public transportation to special high schools or to new "magnet" schools that are meant to attract students from throughout the city.

Similarly the Committee has gone on and on about the sanctity of "neighborhood schools" when, in fact, many of the district boundaries are drawn, not along natural boundaries, but artificially so as to maintain racial segregation in the schools.

In 1965 there were 45 racially imbalanced schools in Boston but by 1973 there were 68. In part this increase is due to the growth of the black population within the context of segregated housing, but there is ample evidence of conscious School Committee policy as well.

Federal Judge W. Arthur Garrity, in his busing decision last spring ordering the Boston School Committee to implement a desegregation plan drawn up by the Board of Education, found that open enrollment and transfer policies were managed with a "singular intention to discriminate on the basis of race." Staff and faculty were distributed in the school system in such a way that the predominantly black schools received the less-qualified people.

The School Committee has also withheld information and only released it under threat of a court order. For instance, the Board of Education, in drawing up the current desegregation plan, was not able to get the school-related demographic statistics it needed and the Committee had to be forced to release them. Even then they did not provide all that was needed.

The Committee has also prepared "desegregation" plans that wouldn't alter racial patterns and has even tried to resubmit plans after they have been rejected by the state--all at great taxpayer expense.

By December 1973--half a year before the Garrity decision--it was increasingly obvious that the Committee would ultimately be defeated in the courts. The Committee then began to stall and ask that the implementation date be put forward to September, 1975.

Over the summer the Committee did nothing to prepare the school administrators, teachers or parents for the desegregation plan and one direct result of this intransigence was that the plan is a poor one and this has added to hostility in the situation.

"To name and analyze it [racism in Boston] correctly of course," writes Andrew Kopkind in the December issue of Ramparts, "would be to implicate a structure of power to which the Globe [Boston's liberal paper, a particular target of the School Committee] and [Mayor] Kevin White and the kindly integrationists are parties:

"the institutions which perpetuate white rule in Boston (Boston is perhaps the only major industrial city in the country with no black, elected officials), the real estate interests that keep

Boston one of the most ghettoized cities in the country, the great universities that define culture as a product of the white European mind, the heavily interlocked banks and business that redevelop the blacks out of the 'New Boston.'"

The School Committee leaders have lashed out openly against these liberal "maggots who live outside the city," as Chairman John Kerrigan has called them. But the Committee only uses this attack, however rightfully aimed, to consolidate its own power. They have no intention of seriously challenging the system for they are integrally a part of that power structure on a local level.

Kerrigan and Hicks who is now on the city council for instance, have extensive links with local real estate and banking interests who have a definite stake in preserving "quality" white neighborhoods for their higher money value.

It was recently revealed, in addition, that the School Committee had awarded a million-dollar busing contract (one of several made as a result of court-ordered busing) to a company that had no buses at the time, whose bid for the work was once deemed defective and whose performance has raised questions of conflict of interest and contract violations. The only thing the company had going for it was a solid friendship with John Kerrigan.

Kerrigan, Hicks and other Boston politicians are now riding high on the near-worshipping support of Boston whites whom they have manipulated for years. "Instead of pushing for a bigger share of society's wealth," writes former Massachusetts civil rights activist Noel Day in Ramparts, "people are fighting over the leavings. That's the tragedy of Boston--they think they have something worth defending."

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(See graphics)
*****DETROIT MEN PROTEST PLAYBOY CLUB OPENING;*****
"WE'RE NOT PLAYBOYS, WE'RE MEN"

DETROIT, (INS)--In an effort to challenge "one of the major sexist institutions in our society," a group of men protested the opening of a new Playboy Club in Detroit on December 9.

Carrying placards that read, "We're not Playboys, We're Men," and "Playboy: Fantasy Sex for Profit," and describing the club as a "playground for the rich," demonstrators were organized by Project Redirection-Detroit, a discussion/action group in operation for a full year. They view the Playboy Club as "another cog in Hugh Hefner's empire founded on a degrading image of women and men."

"We acted out of our own self-interest," explained one organizer, Bob Mast, in a report by the Fifth Estate, a Detroit alternative paper. "We don't like Hefner's definition of manhood, and it's important for people to know that some men want to define themselves differently. There are a growing number of men who don't see their purpose in life as being to fuck over women and treat them as commodities like expensive cars or clothes."

Besides," he added, "our sisters have been carrying the load long enough. It's time some men began speaking out on issues related to sexism."

(Thanks to the Fifth Estate)

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NAZI WAR CRIMINAL EMPLOYED IN POWERFUL POSITION BY U.S.
AIR FORCE SINCE 1947, HAS NAME REMOVED FROM
LIST OF WAR CRIMINALS LIVING IN U.S.

(Editor's note: The following information was provided by Charles Allen Jr. in an article in the September issue of Jewish Currents. The story was subsequently reported widely in the European, African and Asian press, but has yet to be given comparable coverage in the United States.)

NEW YORK (LNS)--In September 1974, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) quietly removed the name of Dr. Hubertus Strughold from its list of "Reported Nazi War Criminals Living in the United States."

Although Strughold is one of the most notorious Nazi war criminals still living, the INS also forwarded apologies to Strughold for the "embarrassment" he had suffered by being characterized as a "war criminal."

Why the apology? Since 1947, Strughold had been employed by the U.S. Air Force and had been the head of NASA's Aerospace Medical Division until his retirement in 1968. He is fondly known in the aerospace program as the "Father of U.S. Space Medicine" and is the only person ever to be employed by the Air Force Academy as a "Professor of Space Medicine."

Strughold held similar sounding positions and titles in Nazi Germany. From 1934-1945 he was the head of Germany's Institute for Aviation Medicine (IL).

As director of the IL, Strughold was responsible for medical experiments conducted on thousands of prisoners held in the Dachau Concentration Camp from 1942-1944. Some of these experiments are told in grisly detail in William Shrier's "Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" and in Alexander Mitscherlich's "Doctors of Infamy." The victims were mainly Jewish and Gypsy concentration camp prisoners and Russian prisoners of war.

Hundreds of these experiments, conducted by the IL, ended in the agonizing deaths of "research subjects," and they resembled sadistic executions rather than the "scientific experiments" Strughold and others later said they were.

According to the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal, more than 200 Dachau prisoners died as a result of testing in the "Sky Ride Machine," which simulated atmospheric conditions of high altitude flights. Prisoners were subjected to low pressure and limited oxygen conditions, while the Nazi scientists recorded the victim's reactions as well as "medical data."

Another project carried out by the IL was the freezing of prisoners who were either left outdoors during winter or immersed in tanks of ice cold water. About 90 Dachau prisoners froze to death in these experiments, and over 200 others who had survived the freezing were executed immediately afterwards so that 'autopsies' could be performed.

Strughold's pet project, however, was experimenting with the "potability of sea water." Scores of Dachau victims who died in these 1944 tests were forced to drink sea water under various conditions. Documents from the Nuremberg trials indicate that Strughold was directly responsible for these particular tests.

Ostensibly, the experiments were done in the interests of German pilots who were shot down over the icy water of the North Sea. Strughold had stressed on many occasions, the importance of "medical experimentation" to "save the lives" of these pilots.

Besides the Dachau experiments conducted under Strughold's supervision, Strughold was also well aware of other experiments conducted on concentration camp prisoners. Although he later said he was not aware of these experiments until after 1945, German medical society proceedings show that he regularly discussed the results of tests done on prisoners who were injected with malaria, typhus and other virulent serums. Hundreds of thousands of these prisoners died as a result of epidemics caused by these injections.

Although Strughold was initially slated to stand trial at Nuremberg in 1946, his name was mysteriously removed from the list of defendants of the 1946-47 "Doctor Trials." It was later revealed that Strughold had been secretly employed at the time of the trials by the U.S. Air Force's Aero Medical Center as a "scientific collaborator."

Other doctors who were under Strughold's supervision did stand trial at Nuremberg: Siegfried Ruff, Hans Romberg and Georg Weltz. The military tribunals found the three "gravely implicated... in dastardly crimes against humanity" but for unexplained reasons the doctors were acquitted in 1947. Immediately afterwards, Ruff, Romberg and Weltz also found jobs in the U.S. Air Force as medical advisors.

Ruff stated at the Nuremberg Trials that like Strughold, he had been employed as a "medical collaborator of the Aero Medical Center of the U.S. Air Force" since 1945, that is, shortly before the Nuremberg trials started. Ruff later became a medical officer in the West German Air Force and now holds a top level position in the NATO command.

Strughold was brought to the U.S. by the U.S. Air Force in 1947 after testifying in behalf of suspected war criminals at Nuremberg. In the U.S. he set up the department of space medicine at Randolph Air Force Base and perfected low pressure chambers and other space capsule simulators which were developed versions of the experimental machines used at Dachau. He became a naturalized citizen in 1956.

Currently, Strughold is a consultant at the Brooks Air Force Base in Texas, where he now lives. All attempts to contact him are frustrated by NASA officials who themselves refuse to comment on the matter. A number of congresspeople are said to have been quietly working on his behalf to get his name cleared as a war criminal, the most instrumental of these being Henry Gonzalez (D-Texas).

Powerful conservative senators James Eastland and John Stennis were also supporters of Strughold's efforts to exonerate himself as a war criminal.

Representatives Elizabeth Holtzman and Joshua Eilberg have charged that the INS' failure to prosecute known Nazi war criminals living in the U.S. is influenced by pressure exerted by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Other top Nazi war criminals have been harbor-

of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and throughout Indochina."

The Relief Fund shipment, the first of U.S.-purchased supplies, left for Hanoi from New York's Kennedy International Airport. The shipment consisted of ten tons of equipment and supplies ranging from one dozen laboratory beakers to sophisticated brain wave monitors and research centrifuges. Money to purchase the equipment, valued at \$300,000, was donated by over 80,000 Americans outraged by the attack on the hospital, and many other civilian targets.

Altogether over \$1 million has been collected in the two years since the Christmas bombings. A second shipment of nine tons, costing about \$250,000, is set for a February delivery. These two shipments will complement those items already purchased for the Laboratories of the Ear, Nose and Throat Institute at Bach Mai. This laboratory apparatus, valued at over \$181,000 purchased in Japan and already in use at the hospital.

The rebuilding of Bach Mai will take over \$20 million alone and it was only one of 90 hospitals and medical installations destroyed in 1972. The people of France, Japan and Sweden have contributed many millions of dollars to help reconstruct portions of the hospital. In the United States, Medical Aid to Indochina organized the Emergency Relief Fund with a goal of \$3 million to be used particularly in the rebuilding of the Ear, Nose and Throat Institute.

Contributions to the Relief Fund can be sent to the Bach Mai Hospital Fund, 65 A Winthrop St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

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ANN LANDERS AND OTHERS AWARDED "BRICKBATS" BY THE BOSTON GAY COMMUNITY

BOSTON (LNS)--The Boston Gay Community News recently published two pages of its second annual "bouquets and brickbats" awards.

Among those singled out for honors were Ann Landers, who appeared before the Harvard Club insisting that she is a "champion of gay rights...and I really can't understand why these people don't realize this." Landers reacted to protest by gay people outside by claiming "homosexuality is a sickness, as anyone will tell you, and no one should be proud of a sickness."

Another award went to Rev. Benjamin Buber, superintendent of the Christian Civic League of Augusta, Maine.

Responding to a local gay dance, Buber was quoted in local and national media as saying, "such activities could lead many innocent and unsuspecting young men...to being recruited and enslaved...homosexuals cannot reproduce, and therefore they must recruit."

The Manchester Union Leader, a conservative New Hampshire paper, and its publisher William Loeb, received the "Poison Purple Prose Pendant" for "actions too numerous to list fully."

These included running on the front page a secretly taken picture of people attending a University of New Hampshire gay dance; a front page expose on "Sodomite Clubs" in Manchester ("Sodom and Gemorrah in Manchester"); and a front page "Watch Marcus Welby Tonight for the True Facts" editorial the day an episode

of "Marcus Welby," which had been widely protested by gay groups, was shown.

- 30 -

BLACK JUDGE OUSTED FROM CRIMINAL COURT FOR BAIL POLICIES

NEW YORK (LNS)--Hundreds of demonstrators gathered in the streets around New York's Criminal Court Building January 6, protesting the politically motivated transfer of Judge Bruce Wright from the Criminal Court to the Civil Court.

The black judge "has consistently upheld and adhered to the constitutional protections of equal justice for both rich and poor in his outspoken criticism of the 'if-you-don't-have-the-money-you-must-stay-in-jail' bail system," notes the National Lawyers Guild, one of the numerous groups sponsoring the protest.

Wright has been practically alone in challenging bail policies, which the Lawyers Guild statement point out are used by many judges to "keep poor people in jail indefinitely prior to trial, and to force guilty pleas."

Wright has been particularly sensitive to the destruction that pre-trial imprisonment brings to the defendant's family, job and community relationships.

"Bruce Wright was an embarrassment to the criminal courts," as "virtually the only judge who is obeying the law and the Eighth Amendment (which assumes a person's innocence until proven guilty)," says Rick Wagner of the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR). "He was a threat to the other judges, who uniformly and systematically break the law by violating the Eighth Amendment."

In addition, Wright is a black judge, and therefore subject to special attack for his unconventional policies.

Wright has long faced "the powerful pressures of the police and the district attorney's office," note the CCR. At the head of the list of groups opposing him is the Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA), "an extremely influential and reactionary force in this city," says Wagner. The PBA has fought for the ouster of Wright ever since he took the bench. "They finally blew him from one court to another."

The January 6 demonstrators--including members of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the West Side Harlem Coalition, the National Lawyers Guild, the Coalition of Concerned Black Americans, the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, Brooklyn CORE and the CCR--have demanded a reversal of Administrative Judge Ross's decision to transfer Bruce Wright out of the Criminal Courts.

- 30 -

FOLKS--We have no money in the bank and lots of bills to pay...not to mention salaries. Your January bills are in the mail. Please try to pay.

(#668)

January 8, 1975

more

[See graphics to go with this story.]

HEALTH CARE IN CUBA: AN INTERVIEW WITH AN ATLANTA DOCTOR BACK FROM A RECENT VISIT

(Editor's Note: Dr. Henry Kahn, an Atlanta MD, visited Cuba in September with a group from the American Public Health Association. An internist, Dr. Kahn had just completed two years in public health-family planning research at the Center for Disease Control. The following interview, edited somewhat for length by Liberation News Service, was done by Stephanie Coffin and Teresa Secules for the January 2 issue of the Great Speckled Bird.)

WHY DID YOU WANT TO GO TO CUBA AND HOW WAS THAT POSSIBLE?

Well, I am interested in the development of primary care systems for health care here in the U.S. To me that means first-contact medical attention in your neighborhood or workplace for common diseases with a minimum of obstacles to getting it and an emphasis on disease prevention.

I know that America, with all its wealth, could be doing a much better job in that respect. I understood that the Cuban revolution had made that a priority, and I wanted to see how they organized it.

I was very lucky to have been included among the 17 people in the first major physicians delegation to go to Cuba from the U.S. since the blockade. We were 13 physicians, 1 dentist, 1 nurse, 1 health educator, and 1 medical clerk.

We spent three and one half weeks in Cuba as guests of the Health Ministry which, I think, was interested in showing off their many achievements in health. We came from all over the U.S., and we ranged in ages from 31 to the mid 60's. We didn't come to this with any single common political background, but a wide range of interests in what Cuba has done since the revolution.

WHAT DID YOU SEE OF HOW PEOPLE LIVED?

Well I'd never been to Cuba before, but I'd spent time in other Caribbean and Latin American countries, and it was a refreshing change to see a population completely free of beggars. Everyone appeared well nourished, participating vigorously in the society, and studying. It seems that there are very few Cubans, even the middle-aged and elderly, who aren't taking some kind of course to grow and learn. On the other hand, almost everybody's working.

There are some exceptions, but everyone who wants to work does; there is no unemployment against one's will. Even the schoolchildren over sixth grade are obliged to work about 4 hours a day, which the Cubans proudly point to as the development of a whole new attitude toward helping your society.

When I said not everyone works, I have to concede that a little over half of the adult women still aren't in the labor force. Some of the more traditional women view it as progress that they are able to be housewives. But gradually the Federation of Cuban Women is convincing them that they too should be integrated into the labor force and the larger society. Every year a few more percent than previously work outside the home.

HOW DO THESE NEW ATTITUDES FIT INTO THEIR RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN HEALTH?

Women who may not have any formal health training at all organize the village or neighborhood to make sure that everyone gets the proper kind of health attention.

For example, vaccinations take place in Cuba on a community-wide basis on about one day a year for many types of vaccinations. Through the Women's Federation or the local Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, the whole neighborhood gets it together and has all the kids vaccinated on the same day. In fact, there is a competition between villages to see how fast they can do it, and, I understand, there is one little village where they finished the job in twenty minutes, just to prove they could.

Women play a large role in that, whether they are working or not. For their own health care the same system works. They organize the great majority of Pap smears in neighborhoods rather than in hospitals. Of course doctors and nurses obtain the Pap smears, but the women organize it to be certain that every woman gets the test as often as necessary.

They have an interesting sense of what's private and what isn't private that North Americans might find strange. For example if the result of your Pap smear is abnormal (that means there's a possibility of cancer of the cervix) the clinic often can't call you up to tell you about it because not everyone has a private telephone.

Instead they'll call the neighborhood health committee and the committee will immediately contact you; but at the same time the committee will arrange to take care of your children or cover you at work, so that you will have time to go to the clinic and have the next necessary test. Cuban women seem to be very pleased that they can count on each other for help, rather than hiding illnesses from one another.

There are plenty of public telephones in Cuba, by the way. I think that North Americans would be amazed that in Cuba all local phone calls are free. You just walk into a phone booth, dial the number, and talk.

IS THE WHOLE MEDICAL SYSTEM FREE?

Just about. If you live out in the countryside, where the Cubans have been concentrating much of their energies, all health care is free. That would include hospitalizations, home visits, clinic visits, and medications.

In the cities it is still necessary to pay for your out-patient medicines, but that's the only thing you pay for. Hospitalizations are free, consultations are free. You do have to pick up medicines through a pharmacy and pay for them, although the cost is extremely low, much lower than we would pay for similar medicine.

Most pharmacies are open 24 hours and they give very good service. If you can't pay, which is rarely the case--there is plenty of money in Cuba--you just sign a slip and it is handled through a special social service fund.

YOU MENTIONED THAT THERE IS PLENTY OF MONEY IN CUBA; WHAT DO PEOPLE USE THEIR MONEY FOR?

That's a good question. Rent is free for most people in Cuba; those with higher incomes pay rent on a sliding scale up to a maximum of 10% of their salary. Health care is essentially free, education is entirely free, telephone calls are free. Transportation is extremely inexpensive. For 5 centavos, which is about a nickel, you can take a bus, and all the transfers you want, across the city of Havana. There isn't much else you have to spend money for except food.

Basic food staples are very inexpensive, and although many items are rationed, it's a reasonable ration so there's nobody without food to live on. Luxury foods on the other hand, are quite expensive. While beef is fixed at 4 peso per pound, a bottle of rum is 12 pesos and a pack of cigarettes is 2 pesos 40 centavos. While people smoke and drink in Cuba, I didn't see a drunk while I was there. I'm told alcoholism isn't much of a problem.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH PROBLEMS IN CUBA, THEN?

Well, like most Latin American countries even today, Cuba used to have a tremendous problem with intestinal parasites and a variety of other infectious diseases like polio, and tetanus of the newborns--which is lockjaw--but they haven't had any of these problems in several years. Cuba has now been declared a malaria-free zone.

The health statistics over the last 15 years have changed completely from those of an underdeveloped country to those of a developed region such as the U.S. or Europe. At this time, Cubans most often die of heart disease, cancer, and stroke, as we do here. In fact, their statistics on many infectious diseases are better than those in the U.S.

WHAT OTHER KINDS OF HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS DID YOU SEE?

I want to really emphasize the organization of health care, because that's the thing they could teach us. Cuba has 326 polyclinics which are the basic health care units.

The polyclinic is an outpatient clinic which has anywhere between four and twenty physicians in it and lots of additional staff. It has a minimum of a child specialist, a specialist in adult diseases, an obstetrician-gynecologist, a dentist, and x-ray and laboratory facilities. All consultations are free.

These polyclinics are distributed throughout the island and everyone knows where his or her polyclinic is. The clinic takes responsibility for a defined neighborhood or area. They look into sanitation, immunizations, all the standard health practices as well as treating the ill.

If you have a disease which can't be adequately treated in that facility, they will refer you to the provincial hospital, or the national hospital for the most sophisticated kind of care.

It's no surprise that they don't have as much fancy equipment as we have here in our special university centers, but on the other hand that isn't important for the great numbers of people. Most people need common care for common diseases, and that is excellent in Cuba. It's readily available to anyone who needs it without any long delays or confusion.

about where to go.

DID YOU SEE ANY PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS IN WORKPLACES? WE SEEM TO HAVE VERY LITTLE OF THAT IN THIS COUNTRY.

In the workplace it's now required that every employee have a physical exam every year, and that usually includes a chest X-ray, blood tests, and where relevant, things like hearing tests and vision tests.

Of course retirement is available at a reasonable age for those who wish to retire, and disability payments are 70% of full salary for anyone who is injured on the job. That has to come out of the factory budget, so the factory is motivated for many reasons to maintain a high rate of job safety.

IS THERE ANY PROVISION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION?

The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution--locally based mass organizations involving 80% of Cuban adults and teenagers--have developed a tradition they call health audiences.

The committee invites the doctors or other staff members from the local polyclinic to give a talk about a selected health care topic. A question and answer period about that topic follows, and then a general criticism session during which the people can make comments about how they think the clinic has served them in the recent past.

So there is a pretty complete interchange in both directions between the neighborhood and the professional providers of health care.

WHO ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS; IN TERMS OF RACE, CLASS, SEX; WHO ARE THE DOCTORS, NURSES, JANITORS ETC.?

I'm told that in the first few years following the revolution, nearly one-third of the Cuban physicians, mostly white men, left the island. Over 90 per cent of the specialists and professors at Havana Medical School left. Nevertheless, Cuba has graduated over 8000 new doctors since 1959 and these reflect the composition of the island which is about 40 per cent European origin, 20 per cent African origin, and 40 per cent mulatto.

Medical students are now about 50 per cent women, and the dental students are women. On the other hand, some traditional notions of sex roles still apply to other types of health workers. Nurses are almost 100 per cent women and there seems to be no prospect for change. Certain types of laboratory technicians are almost 100 per cent women while other types are almost 100 per cent men, yet there doesn't seem to be any understanding that these roles don't have to be sexually segregated.

CUBA ALSO HAS SOME INTERESTING MATERNAL HEALTH PROGRAMS; CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THEM?

Prior to the Revolution, I understand that the great majority, perhaps 80 per cent, of all Cuban childbirths occurred outside the hospital without any kind of medical supervision. Most of the doctors were in Havana, and even there, they only served the wealthy and the middle classes.

There were very few physicians out in the countryside where the majority of the Cubans lived.

In 1973, 98 per cent of all births occurred in hospitals under medical supervision, bringing a tremendous reduction in infant and maternal mortality.

What is really interesting to me is that they have chosen to emphasize what they call Psychoprophylactic or prepared childbirth. They make an important part of every pregnancy to educate the woman about childbirth so that when she actually begins labor she needn't be frightened of her own experience or the hospital environment.

As a result they are able to conduct most labors without any anesthesia whatever. I visited one of the major maternity hospitals in Havana, which conducted 4775 deliveries last year and only twice used Demerol, a type of narcotic pain-killer. They used spinal anesthesia perhaps a dozen times, and that was the total amount of anesthesia required.

While I visited the labor floor, there were eight women in active labor and not a single one of them was crying or screaming. I might point out that they were mostly sitting up, because the Cubans, along with researchers elsewhere, have realized that it seems to be more natural to conduct labor in a sitting position.

The delivery itself is also conducted in the sitting position in a specially-built chair. The Cubans have already shown that this results in reduced labor time and an improvement in obstetrical performance.

HOW IS FAMILY PLANNING DEALT WITH IN CUBA?

I met a number of obstetricians and talked to a number of people in and out of the government and discovered that there is a whole range of ideas as to Cuba's needs for family planning. Some people think Cuba has too many babies, others think too few, so the result is a compromise in which there is apparently no official population policy in Cuba.

Family planning is widely available to any couple or individual who wants it regardless of marital status. But there is no official promotion of family planning. It's simply freely available in your polyclinic, and everybody seems to know about it. There's been a decline in birth rate over the last couple of years, and I'm sure it's related to these services.

Birth control pills are available in Cuba, but not very widely used because it's the physicians' view that these pills were developed through unethical and exploitive experiments on Puerto Rican women. They consider Puerto Rican women to be their sisters. They admit that the new low dose pills probably are far less dangerous, but they feel wary of this whole method.

On the other hand, they use a high number of IUD's, which they obtain partly through second party purchases in Switzerland. They used to get their IUD's from Chile, but, of course, that's not possible any more. There are large numbers of the traditional contraceptives, too, like condoms, foams, and diaphragms, all of which are easily available in Cuba.

Abortions are freely available, on request up until the eighth week of pregnancy; after that you need a special gynecologist's approval. For the country as a whole, the ratio of abortions to live births is about one to three.

WHAT WERE YOUR GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF SOCIALISM IN CUBA?

I was pleasantly surprised about the general lack of fear and paranoia regarding crime and personal danger. People seem to have no hesitation about being out on the streets in the day or night; people ordinarily left their houses unlocked or only loosely protected. There were no steel shutters on store windows and I heard of no violent crimes. A certain stability, personal security, and self confidence seems to part of modern Cuba, which we haven't had here in the US for many years, if ever.

Everyone I met seemed to making their life decisions around what the community needs and wants. Doctors would frequently say, "I will work where the revolution needs me." After completing their obligatory three years of rural medical service following medical school, they would, I think, be perfectly happy to stay on another five years if it was necessary. They receive satisfaction out of the group success and the group experience. That's a really exciting feeling, and to see it embraced by just about everybody I met made me think that socialism was a success in Cuba. - 30 -

(see graphics section for photo)

DEMONSTRATORS IN MILWAUKEE PROTEST VA CUTBACKS

MILWAUKEE, Wisc (LNS)--Forty people held a militant picket line and rally at the Wood Wisconsin VA Hospital in Milwaukee December 18th to demand an end to the recent cutbacks in the Veterans Administration staff, the proposed taxes on vets' pensions, an inadequate GI Bill, a lack of jobs and no benefits for thousands of vets with bad discharges.

The demonstration was triggered in part by cutbacks in the hospital staff scheduled for January 1st, which veterans charge will "seriously threaten the safety of the VA patients."

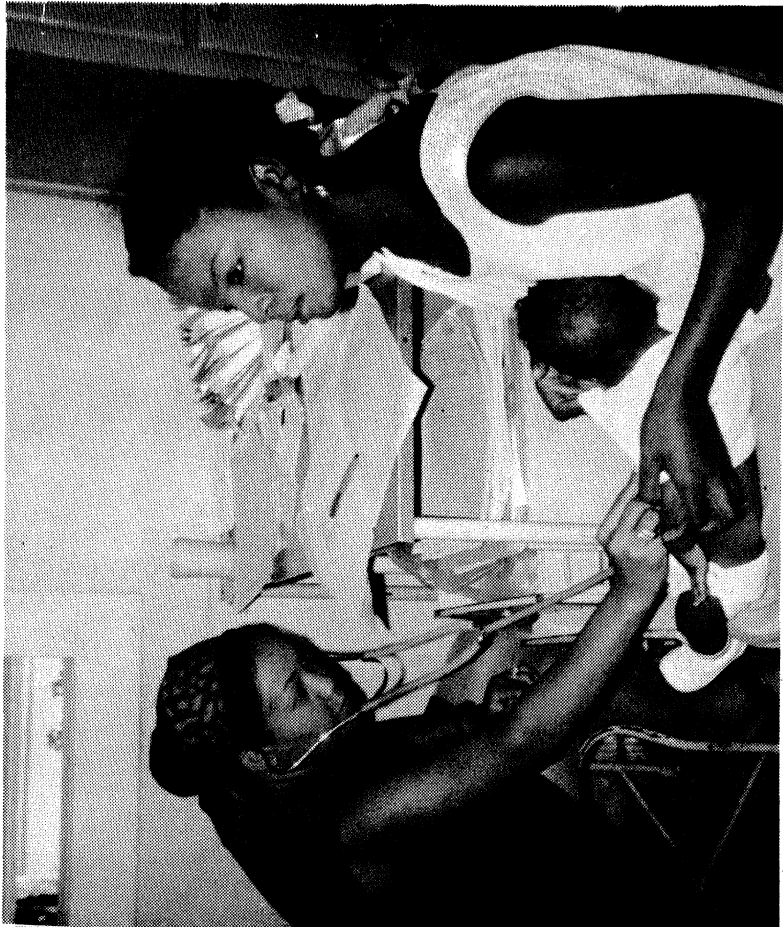
The hydro-treatment facility, for example, has been reduced from five workers to one person, who is left to take care of 43 patients a day. In many instances these patients must remain in the whirlpool baths unattended as this one worker is also responsible for taking the patients to the elevator.

"VA clinics are butchershops, we need more doctors, but you hire more cops," shouted the demonstrators.

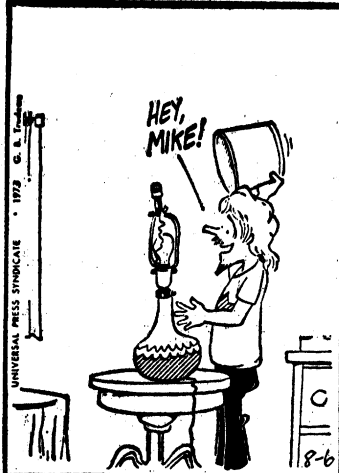
Inside the hospital, militant vet patients who wanted to join the picket line and rally, were threatened by the guards. People in the methadone program said that they were threatened with being dropped from the program if they went out to the demonstration. And known activists in the hospital were intentionally scheduled for therapy at the same time that the demonstration was going on outside.

Nevertheless at one point during the demonstration several patients joined the protesters on the picket line or showed their support with clenched fists. Others addressed the crowd with personal accounts of their own experiences with the VA.

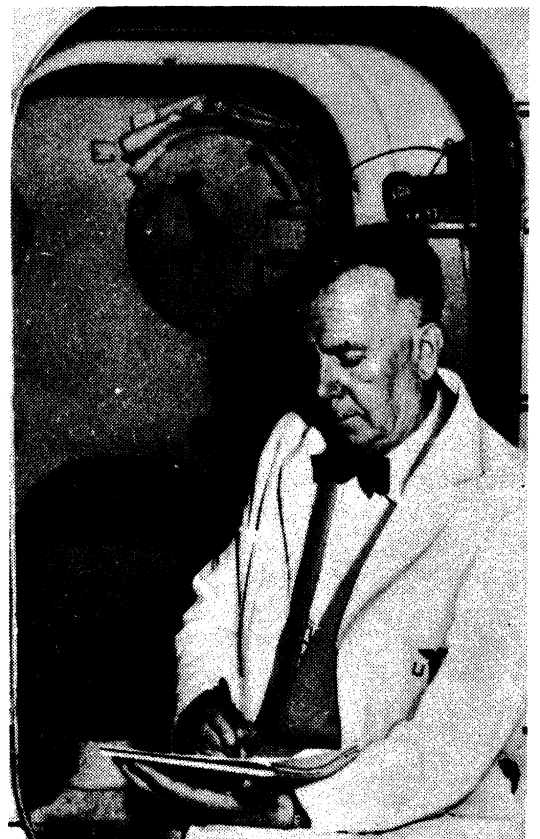
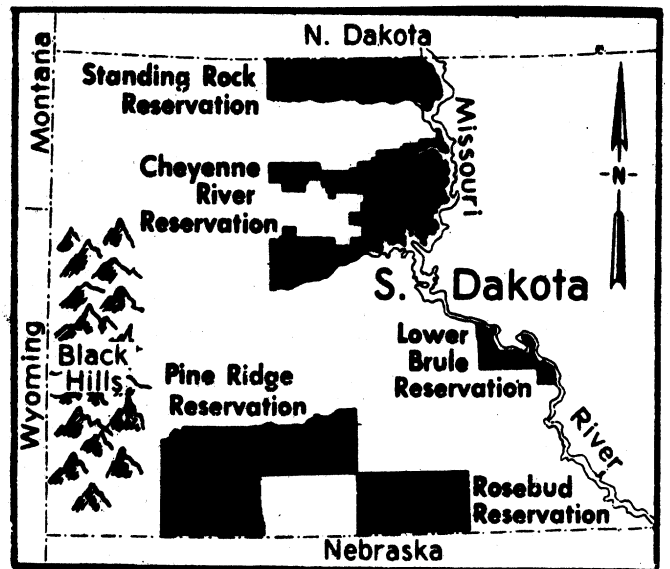
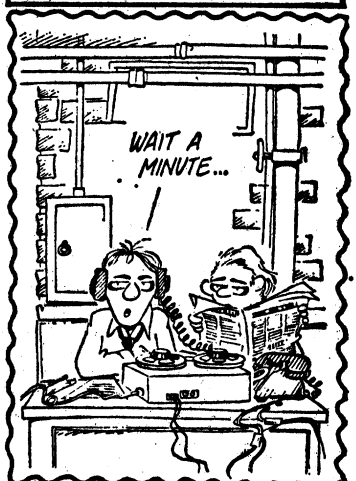
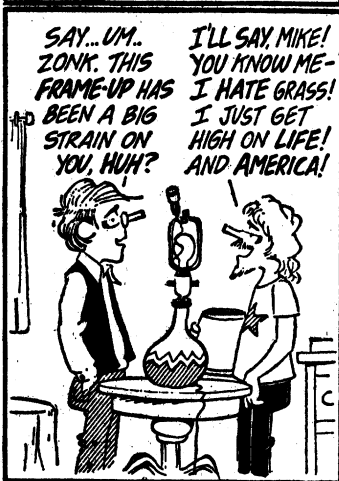
(continued on inside front cover)



DOONESBURY



GARRY TRUDEAU



TOP RIGHT: Doonesbury cartoon.
THIS CAN BE USED WITH THE FBI Huston
Plan story in packet #666 and the
CIA story in packet #667.

TOP LEFT: Maternity and infant-care hospital
in Mayari-Arriba, Oriente Province, Cuba.
There were no health facilities in this area
before the revolution.

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 8.

CREDIT: Venceremos Brigade/LNS

MIDDLE RIGHT: Hubertus Strughold, known
in the U.S. aerospace industry as "Father
of U.S. Space Medicine." He is also a
Nazi war criminal. His background in
space medicine comes in part from exper-
iments he performed at Dachau Concentration
Camp, 1942-1944.

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 5.

MIDDLE LEFT: Members of a men's group, Project
Redirection-Detroit, picketing the Detroit
Playboy Club.

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 4.

CREDIT: Ann Mast/FIFTH ESTATE/LNS

BOTTOM RIGHT: Map showing Indian reservations
left today in South Dakota. In a treaty with
the U.S. in 1868, the Sioux nation was guar-
anteed all the land in South Dakota west of the
Missouri River.

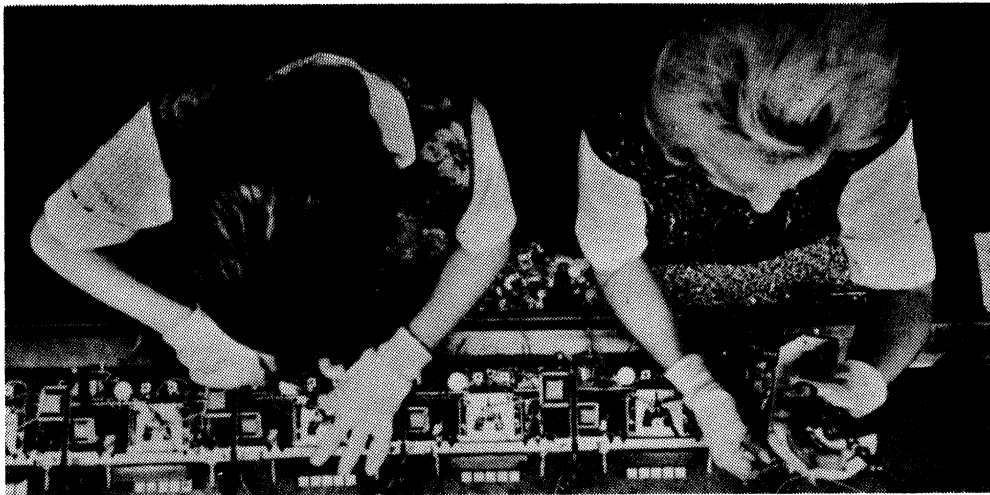
GOES WITH STORY IN PACKET #666.

CREDIT: NEBRASKA DISPATCH/LNS

BOTTOM LEFT: Milwaukee chapter of VVAW/WSO
demonstrating outside the Woods VA Hospital.
They were attacked by police.

GOES WITH STORY ON PAGE 10.

CREDIT: VVAW/WSO /LNS



OF COURSE
I'M PROUD
TO BUILD
THIS
INTERCONTINENTAL
AIRPORT
FOR MY
COUNTRY...



OF COURSE
I'M HAPPY
TO HAVE A
JOB, TO
EARN A
REGULAR
SALARY...

NEVERTHELESS...



... I'M NO EXPERT,
BUT IF ALL THE MONEY
WE ARE BURYING
HERE TO BUILD
SOMETHING THAT IS
GOING TO BE USED
BY ONLY 0.2%
OF MY COUNTRYMEN
WAS PUT INTO
SOMETHING THAT
WOULD BENEFIT
99.8%, INTO
SOMETHING REALLY
PRODUCTIVE...

unw/

... THEN MAYBE
WE COULD
AFFORD AN
AIRPORT LATER,
USEFUL TO
EVERYBODY...

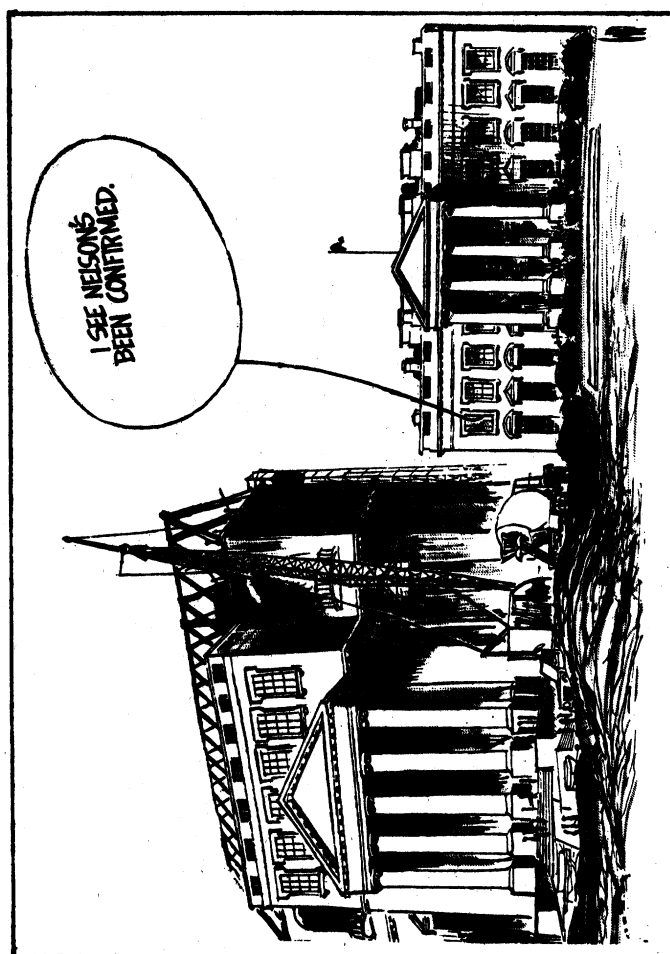


It is not the police, the courts
or men who
will stop
rape.
Women will stop rape!

- Boston Women's Health Collective,
Our Bodies, Ourselves



pay at all



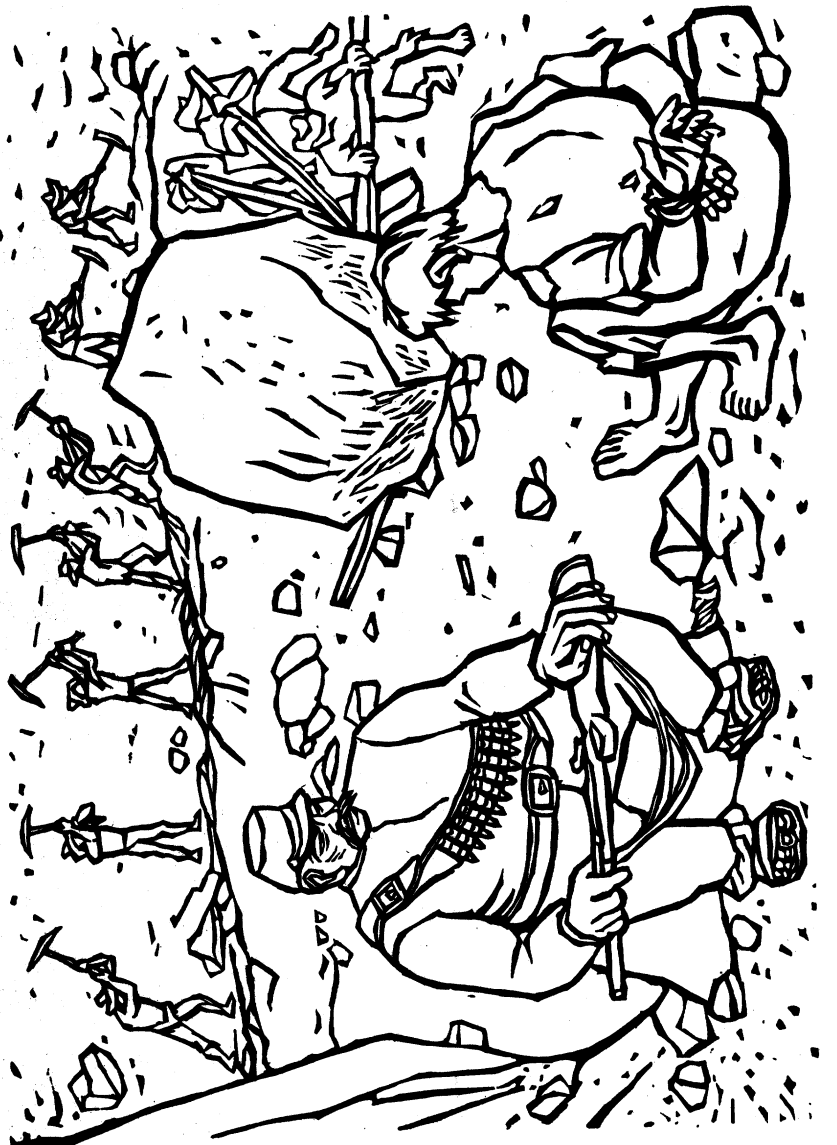
I SEE NELSON'S
BEEN CONFIRMED.

TOP RIGHT CREDIT: Claudius/IDAC/LNS

TOP LEFT: Cover repeat from the last packet (#667).
CREDIT: LNS

BOTTOM RIGHT CREDIT: BLACK PANTHER/LNS

BOTTOM LEFT: Cover repeat (#668).
CREDIT: GRASSROOTS/LNS



TOP RIGHT: Mexican woodcut. The Mexican army is driving Yaqui Indians off their land for an American company. The peasants were led by José María Leyva to defend their land of Bacatete and the Valley of Mayo.

CREDIT: Leopoldo Méndez/Taller de Grafica Popular/LNS

TOP LEFT: Mexican woodcut. Guerrillas distributing guns to peasants. They are attacking a train that carries troops of Dictator Victoriano Huerta.

CREDIT: Alberto Beltrán/Taller de Grafica Popular/LNS

These woodcuts are by artists of a Mexican graphics collective, Taller de Grafica Popular. We don't have dates for most of these, but they portray the period around the Mexican Revolution. The address of the collective is: Netzahualcoyotl 9, 1° piso, México 1, DF, Mexico.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Mexican woodcut. Forced labor in Valle Nacional, Oaxaco, Mexico, 1890-1900. Prisoners worked from sunrise to sunset surrounded by federal troops.

CREDIT: Alfredo Zalce/Taller de Grafica Popular/LNS

BOTTOM LEFT: Mexican woodcut. People demonstrating for education, land, and irrigation. The big man at the top represents reactionary government forces.

CREDIT: Fernando Castro Pacheco/Taller de Grafica Popular/LNS